

September 2006

# RM News & Notes



## Safety Tips

### 4 Points to Eye Safety

#### Have a safe work environment

- Minimize hazards from falling or unstable debris.
- Make sure that tools work and safety features (machine guards) are in place.
- Ensure that workers, particularly volunteers, know how to use tools properly.
- Keep bystanders out of the hazard area.

#### Evaluate your safety hazards

- Know your primary hazards.
- Recognize hazards from nearby workers, large machinery, and falling/shifting debris.

#### Wear the proper eye and face protection

- Select the Z87 eye protection for the hazard.
- Make sure the eye protection is in good condition.
- Make sure it fits properly and will stay in place.
- Eye/face protection devices should not be relied upon to provide complete protection.

#### Prepare for eye injuries and first aid needs

- Have an eyewash or sterile solutions on hand

## Department Profile: Risk Management

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### Web Page

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## Message from the Risk Manager

Safety Glasses: Not a very exciting topic. However, if you're not using proper eye protection when you should be, things can get exciting, really fast. Even a tiny speck of dirt, metal shaving or other debris can cause intense pain and serious injury, not to mention the potentially catastrophic effect of chemical splash and blood borne pathogen exposure. Maybe you don't have any exposures at work so eye protection is not something you really consider. Well, consider this: When is the last time you used liquid bleach at home, put brake fluid in your car or perhaps cleaned the oven? Or maybe you prefer cutting and edging the lawn, trimming the hedges and weed eating around the house. These are just a few of the common, every-day tasks where eye protection is needed. Always read precautions on products and equipment and follow the safety guidelines. Additionally, even if you are not directly involved in the work, any one in the general area of the activity should use eye protection or better yet, stay away. Take just a minute and try to imagine how your life would change if you were blind, even if only in one eye. Pretty devastating, huh? Thankfully, most of us will never have to experience the loss of our sight. But remember, even a relatively minor eye injury can result in permanent damage. You only have two, with no spares, so don't take chances when it comes to protecting your eyes.

*Darlene*

## Safety Officer News and Notes

### Common hazards

- Dust, concrete, and metal particles
- Falling or shifting debris, building materials, glass
- Smoke, noxious/poisonous gases
- Chemicals (acids, bases, fuels, solvents, lime, wet or dry cement powder)
- Welding light and electrical arc
- Thermal hazards and fires
- Blood borne pathogens (hepatitis or HIV) from blood, body fluids, human remains

### Common injuries

- Corneal abrasions and conjunctivitis (red eyes)
- Concrete or metal particles or slivers embedded in the eye
- Chemical splash or burn
- Welder's flash burn
- Eyeball laceration
- Facial contusion and black eye
- Blood borne pathogen exposure from blood or other body fluids or human remains



### PROTECTION - THE RIGHT KIND OF EQUIPMENT

There are many different types of eye and face protection that prevent eye injuries, blindness, and other tragedies. Make sure you use the right equipment for the situation.



#### Safety Glasses:

- Are stronger and safer than regular glasses
- Protect against flying objects
- Don't protect against hazardous fumes or gases



#### Safety Goggles:

- Protect against flying objects, sparks, splashes, dust
- Generally offer better protection than safety glasses
- May be indirectly ventilated to keep out splashes and dust



#### Helmets:

- Protect head and neck against sparks, splashes, intense light
- Resist heat and impact
- Must be worn with safety glasses underneath



#### Face Shields:

- Protect face and neck against splashes, flying objects, heat, glare, light
- Don't offer full head protection
- Must be worn with safety glasses or goggles underneath

**If you wear prescription glasses or contact lenses, you may need to wear special eye protection. Contact lens wearers should not wear them for certain types of jobs.**

**CHECK WITH A SUPERVISOR BEFORE STARTING TO WORK**

## Safety Stories

### The WD-40 Story

A few years ago, my parents purchased a new home and decided to put some of their belongings in a storage unit. Among the items they were placing in storage, was an antique cast iron stove. My father decided that the stove should be sprayed with WD-40 to prevent rusting until it could be removed from storage. He enlisted my help for this task. I lifted the side of the stove so that the bottom of it could be sprayed. When he started spraying, the WD-40 immediately overtook me and got into my eyes. I had to see a physician for eye care treatment for almost one year. I should have been wearing safety goggles, and if I had been, I could have saved myself a lot of pain and suffering.

## Up Coming Events

Each program is advertised by Risk Management and is available to each employee of Columbia County and the city employees of Grovetown and Harlem. Additionally, the Defensive Driving Courses may be attended by immediate family members of employees, on a space available basis, for a nominal fee.

### Pre-registration is required.

For additional information or to register contact Risk Management. 706-312-7475

**Safety Review Board      October 12, 2006**

**Defensive Driving**  
**Course – 8 hour**  
**September 7, 2006**  
**September 21, 2006**  
**October 5, 2006**  
**November 9, 2006**

**Defensive Driving**  
**Course – 4 hour      October 19, 2006**

**CPR/AED/First Aid**  
**Course – 8 hour      November 2, 2006**

### SEPTEMBER 2006

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### OCTOBER 2006

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### NOVEMBER 2006

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**WISHING YOU A**  
*Safe Labor Day*

## Quotable Quotes

“When you put faith, hope and love together,  
you can raise positive kids in a negative  
world.”

- Zig Ziglar

